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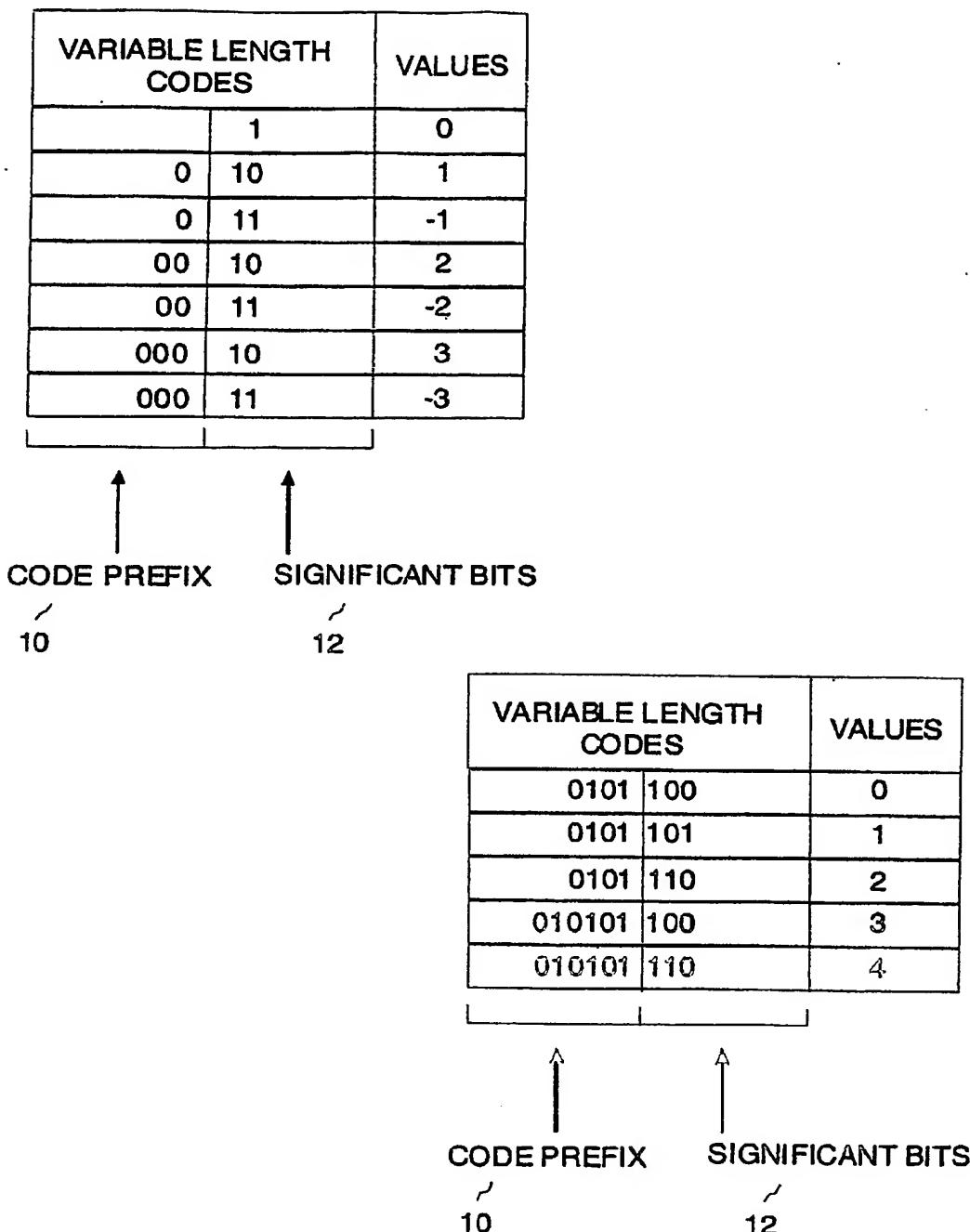


FIG. 1

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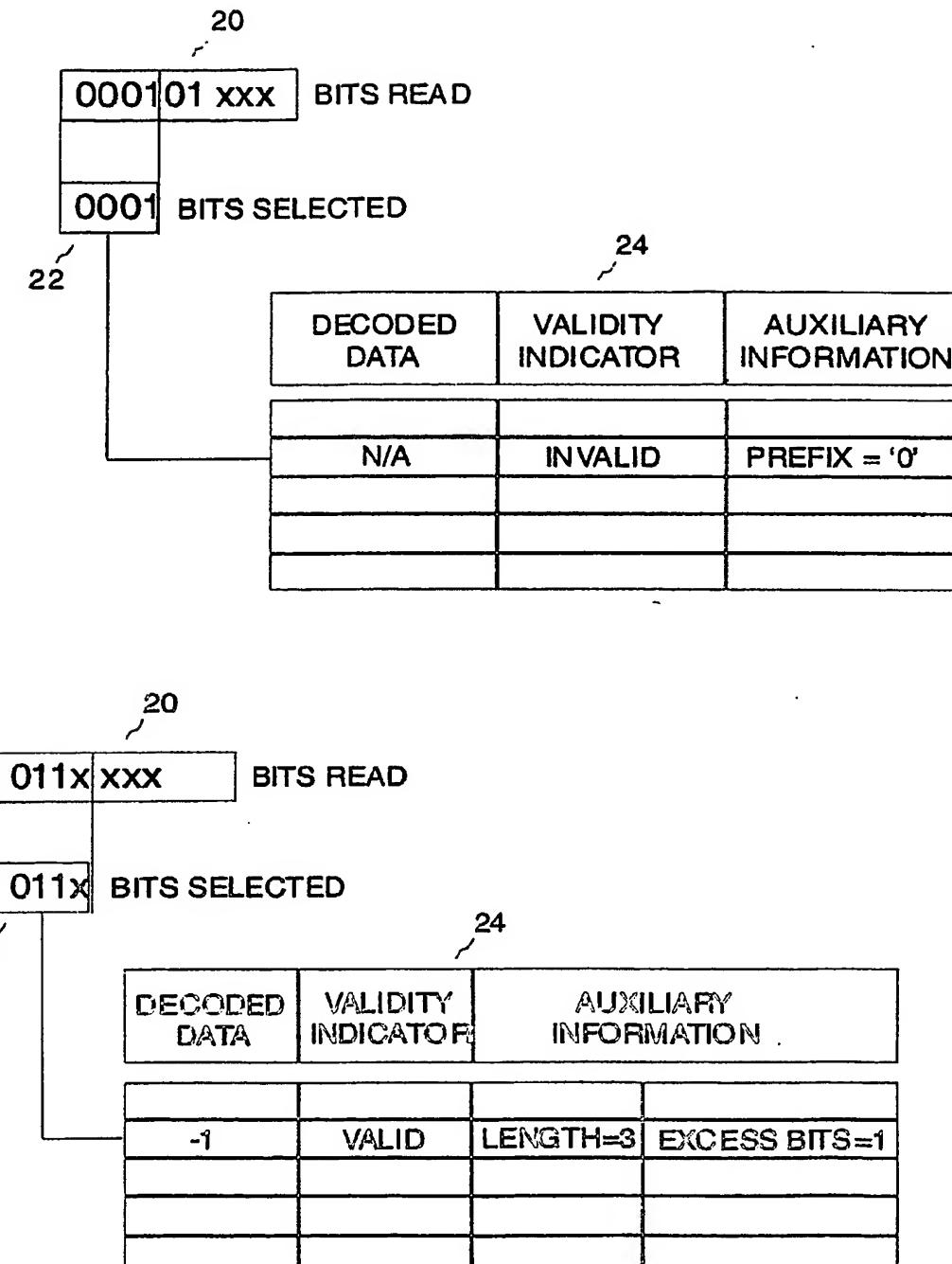


FIG. 2

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100

READ NUMBER OF BITS NOT LESS THAN ANY POSSIBLE VARIABLE LENGTH CODE

SELECT PREDETERMINED NUMBER OF BITS

INDEX CODE TABLE WITH THE VALUE OF SELECTED BITS TO OBTAIN AT LEAST DECODED VALUE AND VALIDITY INDICATOR

OPTIONAL: OBTAIN AUXILIARY INFORMATION, E.G., PREFIX TYPE, MAXIMAL PREFIX LENGTH, OTHER PRE-DECODED DATA

106

IF VALIDITY INDICATOR == VALID

YES

NO

RETURN DECODED VALUE

110

APPLY PREFIX ORIENTED DECODING METHOD TO THE INITIALLY READ BITS ACCORDING TO PRE-DECODED DATA OBTAINED

FIG. 3